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It is very gratifying for men and women of to-day to find an ancestor's name on the pension rell of the Revolution. It will be equally gratifying in the future for a man's descendants to find that he was on the pension roll of the War of Rebellion.

The National Tribune.

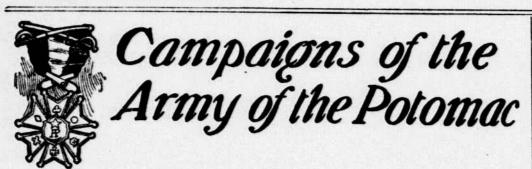
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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1904.

VOL. XXIII-NO. 40.-WHOLE NO. 1195,



A Critical History of Operations in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania from the Commencement to the Close of the War, 1861-1865.

By WILLIAM SWINTON.

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thus making the overland march across the

Peninsula, Gen. Smith's command had re-

TO POSSESS PETERSBURG.

during the night of the 14th, Smith's col-

before by a part of his force. (4) The

possession of this place at a point d'appui

for the ulterior operations of the Army of

the Potomac was of prime importance. Being joined by the cavalry division of

Kautz and the division of colored troops

PERATIONS AROUND RICHMOND AND PET-

and pushed forward, on the morning of the

Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad, and at the

executed in a spirited manner, and one gun captured. This unexpected affair de-

layed the column until about 9 a. m.

-Grant: Report of Operations, p. 10.

5. Smith: Report of Operations against

6. It may be observed that this state-

ment of the time of the arrival of the col-

umn before the fortifications of Peters-

burg is at variance with the statement of

City Point Railroad. (5)

brought up. (6)

Petersburg.

important bearing on the campaign.

CHANGE OF BASE. The Army Makes a Skillful Sweep Across the turned to Bermuda Hundred, whence it

James, and Begins the Long-Continued In- proceeded upon an operation that had an vestment of Fetersburg-Extension of the Left Flank to Cut the Rebel Lines of Supply. The determination of Gen. Grant to

transfer the army; by a flank march, to the south side of the James River, involved considerations of a wholly different order from those concerned in the repeated turning movements which he had made to dislodge Lee from the intrenched positions held by him. These were simply manuvers of grand tactics, delicate indeed in their nature, but they did not carry the army away from its line of operations, nor from night of the 14th, passed to the south side the defensive lines as regards Washing of the Appomattox on a pontoon bridge, ton, which it all the time covered. The resolution to cross the James necessitated the total abandonment of that system of action which aimed, while operating against the enemy offensively, to directly defend the National Capital.

Now, although in the defense of places, it is frequently more efficacious to assume a line of operation that seems to abandon the point to be guarded and deliver it up to the enemy, than to place one's self directly in front of it, it must be borne in mind that Gen. Grant was acting under an Administration that was not only incapable of appreciating such considerations, which indeed belong to the higher part of war, but an Administration that was, from political motives, strongly opposed to a removal of the army from the overland line of advance against Richmond. Moreover, the operation was in itself one of great delicacy, a change of base being pronounced by the foremost master of war "the ablest manuver taught by military

Gen. Grant manifested as much moral firmness in adopting a line of action which, adverse though it was to the wishes of his Government, he felt to be prescribed by showed ability in executing this difficult operation. The measure itself was not only entirely conformable to the true principles of war, but its execution reflects high credit on the commander, and merits

GRANT WENT TO THE JAMES.

Harbor, the Ninth Corps, then holding the extreme right of the line, had been withdrawn from its position and posted between the Fifth Corps, which then became the right of the line, and the Eighteenth. On the 6th, the Fifth Corps was retired and massed in rear of the center. The Ninth Corps then became again the right of the line. On the 7th, the Second Corps, then forming the left of the line, being stretched to the Chickahominy, the Fifth was transferred to that flank to extend it as far as Dispatch Station on the York River Railroad. At this date, two divisions of cavalry under Sheridan were sent to destroy more effectually the Central Railroad.

lower crossings of the Chickahominy-Warren's Corps being but 10 miles from Long Bridge. On the night of the 12th of June the movement to the James was begun.

Warren, preceded by Wilson's Cavalry Division, took the lead, seized the crossing of the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, and made dispositions to mask the movement of the army. Hancock's Corps then followed the Fifth, and marched to Wilcox's Landing on the left bank of the James. The corps of Wright and Burnside, by an exterior route, crossed at Jones's Bridge and marched to Charles City, on the James. Smith's command marched to White House. where it took transports and returned to Bermuda Hundred by water. The trains

made the passage of the Chickahominy by a bridge at Coles's Ferry. The march of 55 miles across the Peninsula was made in two days, and with perfect success. It was covered from the enemy's observation by a skillful feint made by Warren, who threatened direct advance on Richmond by the route of White Oak Swamp. After crossing the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, Warren threw Crawford's Division forward on the New Market road, while Wilson's Cavalry Division, taking the advance, drove the enemy's mounted force across White Oak Swamp. Warren lay in this vicinity durday, covering all the routes by ment; and under cover of his array, the whole army marched toward the James.

LEE WAS MISLED.

Lee, of course, discovered the withdrawal on the morning of the 13th. He, however, made no attempt to follow up, but retired toward Richmond. During the afternoon, a body of infantry came down the New Market road; but finding Warren's force in line of battle, it made no attack, contenting itself with intrenching in plain sight. It is probable that this menace by Warren deceived Lee as to Grant's actual direct advance on Richmond by the river routes. But, meantime, the army had reached the James below Harrison's Landing, and was prepared to pass to the south Here a considerable delay was caused by the nonarrival of the pontoon bridges: (2) but means of transport being at hand, Hancock's Corps was ferried across at Wilcox's Landing, and landed on the south bank at Windmill Point. During the night of the 14th, the pontoon bridge was laid across the James at Douthard's, a short distance below Hancock's point of passage. (3) By noon of the 16th

Gen. Smith had been informed that the

to place batteries to silence the enemy's fire the guns were speedily driven off (7) to hold securely what had been won, then It could not be detected that any heavy by attempting to reach the bridges, to risk force of infantry was manning the fortification; but it was not judged probable that so considerable an artillery force would be there without support.

ATTACK BY SKIRMISHERS. great a sacrifice, determined to try a heavy vanced from the divisions of Hinks, on the Upon debarking at Bermuda Hundred on the right (the rest of whose command awaited in line of battle to follow up any umn was by Gen. Butler put in motion to success), and, under a sharp infantry fire. capture which had been made a few days works on the salient, with several hundred prisoners and four guns, which, doubleshotted with canister, had been kept in waiting for the expected column of assault. Hinks on the left, and Martindale on the right, followed up the success, the colored present, which was constantly reinforced

under Hinks, Smith's force, during the their artillery. on the south side of the James; the lines prize of the first captor, would demand for of Petersburg-defended, as it proved, by an inconsiderable force, and by local militia made up of boys and old men of the town— down before it in formal beleaguerment, were carried. But as it was almost dark and it was not till after the lapse of near when the operations I have described closed, a twelvemonth that, in the last act of the the troops rested on their arms in the works gained, without the possession either of Petersburg or the line of the Appomattox—an event whence sprang a long Iliad

UNHAPPY RESULTS OF UNNECESSARY DELAY

AT OUTER LINES. During the day on which these events in front of Petersburg were occurring, the Army of the Potomac still continued the laborious process of filing across the James. holds off at arm's-length any force threat and at the same time Lee was passing his ening the communications of the Confed army to the south side above, near Drury's erate Capital. It is distant 22 miles south Bluff. By the morning of the 15th, how- from Richmond, with which city it is con ever, the same morning on which Smith moved toward Petersburg, Hancock's Corps had been all ferried to the south side of burg Railroad, while by means of the Lynch-burg Railroad it taps the great Danville had been all ferried to the south side of the James, and it would have been a simple matter to have directed that corps on Weldon and the Norfolk Railroads. In State of the Smith's command. Petersburg, to unite with Smith's command. Had this been done, Petersburg and the line of the Appomattox would have been in line of the Appomattox would have been in the line of operations of the Union army. ssion of the Union force before night. there remains done forms one of the most curious episodes in the conduct of this campaign.

It would seem as though Gen. Grant expected that Petersburg would fall an easy prey to Butler's force; for he left both Gen. Meade and Gen. Hancock wholly unaware of his design to secure the capture of that place. Hancock was directed to remain at the point at which he had crossed till rations, which Gen. Butler was to send, should be received and issued, and then to march in the direction of Petersburg, and "take up a position where the City Point Railroad crosses Harrison's Creek." After waiting till about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and finding that the expected rations did not arrive, he ordered the forward march of his column toward his assigned position on Harrison's Creek-a position from headquarters, and on which it was ocated at about four miles from Petersburg, and between that place and City Point. As it proved, however, the map 15th, toward Petersburg, distant seven was utterly incorrect, and Harrison's miles. The advance was made in three Creek, instead of being at the locality incolumns-Kautz, with the cavalry to dicated on the map, was miles away, and threaten the line of fortifications near the actually inside the enemy's lines.

At length, at 5:30 in the afternoon, same time protect the left flank of the inwhile pushing forward to reach this mythfantry; Hinks' Division, in rear of Kautz, ical objective, Hancock received a dispatch to take position across the Jordan's Point road, as near as possible to the enemy's from Gen. Grant, directing h'm to use all haste in getting up to the assistance of works: Brooks's Division to follow Hinks, Gen. Smith, who, as the paper stated, had and take position on his right; Martinattacked Petersburg (9) and carried the dale's Division, on the extreme right, to outer works in front of that place.

proceed, by the river road, and strike the After an advance of two miles, the cavalry struck a line of rifle-trenches, near the City Point Railroad, defended by infantry and armed with a light battery.

further obstacle was encountered, and after Gen. Smith as 5 p. m., but a delay of above column (Birney's and Gibbon's troops) march of a couple of miles, the force an hour occurred here, owing to the fact was turned in that direction, arriving at brought up in front of the fortifications that "the Chief of Artillery had, upon his Smith's position as the assault was over, enveloping Petersburg from the south. It own responsibility, taken his guns to the No time had been lost on the march during was noon before all the troops could be rear, and unhitched the horses to water."- the day, and the circumstance of Hancock's Smith: Report of Operations before Peters- non-arrival at an earlier hour is due ex-On reconnostering the position, it was til near sundown." Now, although this described, could naturally not be found Potomac began its change of base. The expedition was made by an infantry force there may still remain a residue of blame. under Gen. Gillmore, and a cavalry force Gen. Smith might possibly have assaulted under Gen. Kautz. The cavalry carried several bours before he actually did, had be done" (Report, p. 12), and as the manthe works on the south side, and penefrat- he chosen to take the risk of attacking ner in which he threw it forward is suffito retire. Gen. Gillmore, finding the works that Sheridan, had he been present, instead warren deceived Lee as to Grant's actual ing an assault impracticable, returned to volves no foundation for a charge of deredirect advance on Richmond by the river Bermuda Hundred without attempting one. liction of duty—it is only a question of ancy to those better equipped for the task choice between two different methods of 10. "I desire to say here that the mes-

Gen. Grant, who asserts that Gen. Smith "confronted the enemy's pickets near Petersburg before daylight."—Report, p. 12. The statement above made is based on the official reports of Gen. Smith as concern the march of Hancock's column. The waiting for rations, which of 1864. ien. Grant, who asserts that Gen. Smith on the official reports of Gen. Smith and his division commanders. Without inquiring too curiously in regard to this matter, as having any important bearing on the opinions will differ, whether Gen. Smith point of passage. (3) By noon of the 16th; the whole army was on the south side of the James.

While the James.

While the Army of the Potomac was 1. Napoleon: Memoirs, vol. iii, p. 203.

2. It turned out that the pontoon bridge for the Wagon train over the Chickahoming and Cole's Ferry was too short by half love at Cole's Ferry w

This order, which was the first intimafortifications were such that "cavalry could ride over them"—a representation that did not turn out to be justified by experience; for Kautz, who, with his mounted division, essayed to work his way round on the left, distant from Petersburg. He immediately historically estayed by a found himself completely estopped by a heavy fire, and in front the approaches were discovered to be so covered by the play of artillery from the works, that from every point on which Smith attempted to suspend the open bettering to silence the enemy's operations for the night, judging it wiser the loss of all the gain. (11)

ill or well, may be a question; but there can be no question as to who is really re-After surveying the ground and making sponsible for the failure to take Petershis dispositions, which consumed all the burg. This is no other than the Lieutenant afternoon, Gen. Smith, thinking that the General himself. (12) Yet, as the event assault of the works by a column would, proved, it was fortunate it was not taken. from the fire of the enemy's guns, cost too The resolution on the part of the Confederates to try out the issue of the war there. line of skirmishers. Accordingly, toward gave the Union army an excellent line of 7 p. m., (8) a cloud of tirailleurs was adoperations on an easy base; whereas, had operations on an easy base; whereas, had Petersburg fallen, Lee would have retired complicating matters.

Lee's army reached the town, and men of diers to whom its defense had been intrusted silently deployed in line of battle. In the morning it was found that a new line of works had been thrown up around troops carrying four of the redoubts with by the rapidly-arriving Confederate corps. It was soon manifest that the "Cockade Thus auspiciously opened the operations City," which the day before was the oper its possession a battle or a siege. As the

> THE ARMY BEFORE PETERSBURG. In its strategic relations to Richmond. Petersburg may be defined as a fortress thrust forward on the flank of the Confederate Capital. The great lines of supply

for an army covering Richmond-th Lynchburg Railroad, James River Canal and Danville Railroad-run into that city from a westerly and southwesterly direc-But Petersburg, securely held, easily

the two Invested with this value, Petersburg could not fail to be a possession coveted with equal eagerness by each combatant. | 0 This was indeed the case: Grant had designed to seize it before the Confederate army could join the meager local force left for its defense; and Lee, as soon as the transfer of the Army of the Potomac to the south side of the James had plainly declared his rival's purpose, drew his col-umns also to the south bank and hurried them forward to Petersburg, where they began to arrive during the hours of darkness that followed the assault on the evening of the 15th of June.

How nearly Petersburg then fell a prize to Smith's coup de main has already been seen. But night sufficed to throw into the city a Confederate force so considerable as to insure that its capture would cost a severe struggle.

The morning of the 16th found on the Union side present before Petersburg no more than the two corps of Smith and Hancock: the remaining corps were distant several hours' march. The center of the line of redans enveloping the city from the south had been penetrated the night before, and the positions then gained were onfederates clung tenaciously to a hastilyimprovised line close in the rear of the lost point; and this on its left flank ran

house, then by a crossroad get behind Har-

rison's Creek. Accordingly, Birney's and 7. "Wherever I went on the line, I found Gibbon's Divisions were turned to the a heavy cross-fire of artillery from the right, leaving the Prince George Courthouse The few artillery positions I could road within six miles of Petersburg before find I tried to get our guns to open from; 3 p. m. At 5:30 p. m., as the column Upon this, Kautz was withdrawn to the left, and the colored division thrown forward to carry the line—a duty that was Smith: Report of Operations before Peterscame to hand just as the head of Birney's 8. The determination to attack in the Division was passing a country road leadmanner above described was formed by ing directly toward Petersburg, and the burg. Now, as an interval of five or six clusively to the fact that he was not directfound to be defended by a strong line of hours had passed between the time of ed on Petersburg, and had no intimation, a month at age of 68 and \$12 a month at redans, and connected, though incomplete- Smith's arrival and his resolution to asly, by very formidable rifle-pits; while the approach was over a broad low valley perfectly swept by the artillery of the works, and cut up by ditches and ravines. In the center the line formed a salient, covered by a powerful profiled work heavily and converted to the approach of the could readily have joined Smith early in the afternoon, by marching directly toward Petersburg. The best hours of the could readily have joined Smith early in the afternoon, by marching directly and converted to the could readily have joined Smith early in the afternoon, by marching directly and converted to the could readily have joined Smith early in the afternoon, by marching directly and converted to the could readily have joined Smith early in the could readily have joined Smith early to be attacked. Had he been so informed to be attacked. ered by a powerful profiled work, heavily stand," says he, "Gen. Smith did not get rect map, in search of a designated posi-flanked by earthworks and rifle-trenches en ready to assault the enemy's main line untion which, as it was not in existence as censure partially rests on the ground that With these facts, which are of official au-4. This attempt was made on the 10th Gen. Smith reached the position "before thenticity, it will not be difficult to judge of May, two days before the Army of the daylight"—an assertion traversed by the who is responsible for the noncapture of fact that he did not arrive until noon- Petersburg. As Lieut.-Gen. Grant states ed well in toward the town, but was forced without reconno'ssance. It is likely enough ciently manifest in the fact that neither Gen. Meade nor Gen. Hancock knew that which he approached very strong, and deem- of Smith, would have done so. But this in- Petersburg was to be attacked even, I leave the reconciliation of this discrepaction—the method which, taking great sages from Lieut.-Gen. Grant, and from risks, may either lose greatly or greatly Gen. Smith, which I received between 5 gain, and that which works by methodical and 6 p. m., on the 15th were the first and only intimation I had that Petersburg 9. As the circumstances attending the was to be attacked that day. Up to that noncapture of Petersburg are likely to give hour I had not been notified from any

A Second Reminder to Married Soldiers.

T does not follow, as a matter of course, if a man was a soldier, even if he is a pensioner, that it

will be an easy matter for his widow to get a Whether Gen. Smith, in thus acting, did pension. As a matter of fact, widows' claims are unnecessarily delayed, and in some cases never allowed for lack of evidence, which the husband, usually, could have supplied during his lifetime.

This important matter has been discussed, from time to time, in the columns of The National Tribune, and has been made the subject of orders by Comleft, Brooks in the center, and Martindale from Richmond to the interior, thus greatly manders-in-Chief of the Grand Army, but every During the night of the 15th, the van of appeal heretofore was deficient in one essential parseize Petersburg, an abortive attempt to carried the line. Brooks captured the a very different mettle from the crude solfor the custody of the information.

The National Tribune Co., in a practical way, the town, defended by a large force already proposes to supply this deficiency. In a fire-proof room, in its own building, and under lock and key to insure privacy, it will care for such papers and information until such time as they may be needed, even if event proved, Grant was compelled to sit such time is many years distant. The National Tribune Co. is incorporated. Having a perpetual existence, eventful drama of the war, Petersburg fell. the death of the present managers of the Company will not disturb the business or change the custody of the papers. No safer place in the world can be found for the purpose.

But The National Tribune will go further in this commendable work. It will assist in getting in shape the proofs and information required. The first step

for every comrade is to answer the few simple questions that are printed below under the heading "Preliminary Report." This report will disclose the case and enable The National Tribune to complete all the proof required. There will be no charge whatever for this service.

but it will be expected of every comrade that he will call the attention of at least one other married comrade to this matter and influence the other comrade to do likewise. No other missionary work among comrades can be productive of more good. Many comrades who are not subscribers to The National Tribune will not learn of this important service if subscribers do not call their attention to it. Extra papers will be sent for distribution upon request.

Comrades who attend to this matter promptly will be taking the best possible step toward securing for their widows the higher rate of pension: that is, \$12 a month instead of \$8.

Preliminary Report

To aid my widow, if I leave one, in getting her pension.

NOTE. - This report is short, and can be easily written out on letter or legal cap paper. This course avoids cutting the paper. Be sure to write the names and dates clearly and distinctly. When report is ready mail it to R. W. Shoppell, Attorney, or The National Tribune, Washington, D. C.

		Date	, 1904.
Soldier's Name		, P. O	······
State	. I was in the service f	fromday of	, 186, to
theday of	, 186, as a	(Give rank, company and r	egiment.)
and was honorably discharged at .			, on theday
of, 186	Are you a pensioner?	(Yes or no.) At what r	ate? \$per month.
Were you pensioned under the	old law or the new?	(The new law is the a	ct of June 27, 1893.)
What wounds, diseases or disa			
I was married to	Give wife's name before marriage.)	on the	day of
18, by(Give name of clergyman of	or person officiating.)	at	·····
At marriage my age was		. Her agé was	
Is there a public or church record o			
Were either of you previously mar	ried?		
Remarks:	arks are of considerable length they	should be written on a separate sheet	of parer.)

All About the New "Age" Order.

The laws of June 27, 1890, and May 9, blank will be mailed you without cost. 1900, provide for a pension, according to degree of disability, from \$6 to \$12 per month for any soldier of the War of the Rebellion who served 90 days and was hon-

out further proof (and, inferentially, without examination) to be suffering disability sufficient to warrant \$6 a month pension at age of 62; \$8 a month at age of 65; \$10

To Those Who Have Never Applied for Pension.

The estimate is that there are 162,000 soldiers of the War of the Rebellion who have never applied for pension, and that the majority of them are over 62 years of age. We urge upon these comrades that it is their duty to apply. If many are so well-to-do that they do not need it, they can apply the money to help those who prosperity of his neighborhood. Every dol lar he draws and puts into circulation serves the whole community before it finally goes back to the Treasury. The pension list is really a Roll of Honor. Under this "AGE" Order an application can be made that a claimant is half disabled for manual that, in most cases, does not involve ex- labor at the age of 62; two-thirds disabled amination, which probably removes a fea- at the age of 65; five-sixths disabled at the Shoppell, or THE NATIONAL TRIBture that was objectionable to many, age of 68, and wholly disabled at the age UNE, 339 Penn. Avc., Washington, D. C.

TO GENERAL LAW PENSIONERS DRAWING

construed by the New "AGE" Order, which The new "AGE" Order simply says that an increase, he should write to R. W. any claimant who has arrived at the age Shoppell, or The National Tribune, Wash

27, 1890, WHO ARE RECEIVING LESS THAN

Read very carefully the new "AGE" Order given in another column. If it allows National Tribune, Washington, D. C. and a proper blank will be mailed you

TO REJECTED CLAIMANTS.

claim, under any law, was rejected should | Shoppell, or The National Tribune, Washwrite to R. W. Shoppell, or The National Tribune, Washington, D. C., and a proper

TO THOSE WISHING TO ALLEGE MORE DIS-ABILITY THAN IS PRESUMED BY THE

The "AGE" Order presumes and allows

into portions of the original system of THE LAW OF JUNE 27, 1890, AND THE NEW, Write to R. W. Shoppell, or The National of 70. If the claimant can not show that Tribune, Washington, D. C., and a proper he has greater disability at these respective ages than is recited above, it is of no use for him to describe his ailments. It is a disadvantage, in fact, because it will incur the expense and delay of medical examinahis age, it is useless to apply for more than

> is allowed by the "age" order. Any one, however, who is sure that he is more disabled than is allowed for by the "AGE" Order should write to R. W. Shoppell, or The National Tribune, Wash-TO PENSIONERS UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE ington, D. C., and a proper blank will be

Widows.

Upon the death of your soldier husband, apply for pension promptly. It is one of Any one over 62 years of age whose thing is lost by delay. Write to R. W. ington, D. C., and a proper blank will be mailed you without cost.

OTHER CLASSES OF CLAIMS.

We are prepared to prosecute all kinds of claims other than those already referred to. Write us briefly about them.

Do not write long letters, and address answers and all correspondence to R. W.

At three out that the position trage of the worgan train over the Chickaba drop in the special control of the Chick S erery was too short by half its and the serious that the position is position to be an experiment of the commander ran the very positive risk of losing a wago trail of losing its enemy near the special control of losing its enemy near the special control of the carrying of these trenches had showned in 13 bridge was an entrol of the carrying of these trenches had showned in 13 bridge was an entrol of the carrying of these trenches had showned in 13 bridge was elected to begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the begund turing the foremon of the Life, and as he knew the propagated by Brig.-Gen. Weitzel, Chief Exgineer, Department of Virginia and the channel content of the Chief and the propagated by Brig.-Gen. Benham.

2. It turine out that the position to be reached was sounded in the proposition to be reached believed in the commandation of the course of the Life to the carrying of these trenches had thrown Gen. Hinks out of his assigned was elected and the approach of the Life to the carrying of these trenches had thrown Gen. Hinks out of his assigned was selected and the position and wait for daylight."

The site of the bridge was selected and the approach of the Life to the carrying of these trenches had thrown Gen. Hinks out of his assigned the carrying of these trenches had thrown Gen. Hinks out of his assigned to the carrying of these trenches had thrown Gen. Hinks out of his assigned the carrying of these trenches had thrown Gen. Hinks out of his assigned to the carrying of the server of the carrying of these trenches had the protonac should arrive. Gen. Hinks out of the protonac should a

earthworks that remained still in the ene- were not promptly complied with, nor in- poon, and the Fifth at dusk. An assault deed did the efforts of these officers possess was ordered to be made about 4 p. m. by